

STAR IDEA EXQUISITE FOR THE DECORATION OF A CHRISTMAS TABLE

By FRANCES CARROLL.

WITH the menu for the Christmas dinner decided upon, the thing that comes next in the thought of the homemaker is the question of attractive table decorations.

"I know, of course, that the Christmas table must be laid with an immaculate cloth, just the same as for any other dinner," Miss Carroll, "wrote one of the most earnest readers Monday evening, 'and nothing could be more perfect than the Christmas menu you gave today, but what about the table? It should be decorated to suggest the character of the holiday, should it not?'"

Most assuredly the Christmas table should be so completely stamped "Christmas" that no one could have the shadow of a doubt as to the nature of the feast.

Star Flower in Center.

What could do this more effectively than the star flower as a centerpiece, with star-shaped place cards, each bearing an appropriate Christmas quotation?

For example:
"Silently, one by one, in the infinite meadows of Heaven,
Blossomed the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the angels."

Or again:
"Look how the floor of Heaven
Is thick inlaid with patterns of bright gold."

To further carry out the star idea the cakes and loaves should be star-shaped and the hostess should wear a star in her hair.

Holly or evergreen may be effectively

used in making a five-pointed star as a centerpiece for the Christmas table.

A red ribbon should run from the star to each place, being attached to a bell-shaped place card. Above the table suspend either bells made of red tissue paper, or those painted gilt and silver. Bells can be easily colored with gold or silver paint at home.

Another Decoration.

Another table decoration that will delight the hearts of the children present is the centerpiece consisting of a toy Santa Claus with a sleigh and reindeer careering madly down the center of the dinner table. An effective chimney is made of brick building blocks. On his back Santa Claus carries a pack, shaped like a red stocking, in which are the table favors, which are either motto cards or small boxes of candy in Christmas shapes.

Where this suggestion for the decoration of the Christmas table is to be followed, the invitations to the dinner should be written on little red stockings, sent in the ordinary envelope with the following single inscribed in white ink:

"At the sign of the stocking, warm and bright,
We'll expect you sure on Christmas night;
The hour is six, so don't be late,
A good time's coming, for you we'll wait."

A red stocking hung in the window, with a light behind it, will be a visible "sign" for several blocks, and beautifully carry on the idea both of the invitations and of the table decorations.

Whatever the table decorations for the dinner on Christmas day they should be planned with the one thought of accentuating the Christmas spirit, adding life and color to the festive repast.

YULETIDE CUSTOMS IN MANY LANDS

Every Country Has Own Method of Celebrating Christmas.

EVERY country under the sun has its own particular method of celebrating Christmas, but wherever you go the spirit is the same, and the same joyous, clear-throated songs of praise go up on that morning.

Germany is, of course, the home of the Christmas tree, the very first little toy-laden fir having been trimmed there, and throughout northern Germany you will see the little tables spread and the candles left burning all night in the windows, that the Virgin and the little Christ-child may find something to eat and may not stumble as they pass by in the dark and cold.

In some parts of Germany the festivities begin the 6th of December; more often, however, not until Christmas eve, when they last twelve days. But the celebration itself is much the same as ours.

There is the same air of mystery and expectancy and secrecy in all the houses where there are children—and there are children in most of them—letters to Kris Kringle are dropped into post-boxes and stuffed up chimneys just as it is the proper thing to do here.

France is about the only country where the mistletoe plays no part at Christmas, and here, too, as in Holland, the little folks set their shoes beside the chimney for Santa to put his gifts in.

In Spain prayers are said all night on Christmas Eve, for the Spaniards believe that the cocks crow all night long; the little in the stable kneel in homage to the Child who was born among them, and are gifted with the power of speech, and the terrible wild humblybirds are abroad, searching for the souls of children who have died unbaptized.

Leather Jewel Boxes.

Attractive jewel boxes which make most acceptable Christmas presents, are seen in green and red Russian leather. They are shaped like tiny steamer trunks, and have trays that are lifted on hinges and stand out on the side when the box is opened. This is most convenient, as it shows the necessity of removing the trays from the box. They are lined with velvet, the green ones in deep orange and the red in light tan.

Poems Women Should Know

Editor's Note: Every poem which will appear in this series is one that has brought a throb of hope, a throb of courage, a throb of happiness, or of inspiration to some human heart. In clipping and saving the series you cannot afford to miss one number.

The Closing Year.

"Tis midnight's holy hour—and silence now
Is brooding like a gentle spirit o'er
The still and pulseless world. Hark!
On the winds
The bells' deep tones are swelling: 'tis
The knell
Of the departing year. No funeral
Tidings
Is sweeping past; yet on the stream
And wood
With melancholy light the moonbeams
Rest,
Like a pale, spotless shroud; the air
Is stirred
As by a mourner's sigh; and on yon
cloud,
That floats so still and placidly through
heaven,
The spirits of the seasons seem to
stand—
Young spring, bright summer, autumn's
solemn form
And winter with his aged locks—and
breathe
In mournful cadences that come abroad
Like the far wind's wild and touching
wail.
A melancholy dirge o'er the dead year,
Gone from the earth forever. 'Tis a
time
For memory and for tears. Within the
deep,
Still chambers of the heart a specter
dim,
Whose tones are like the wizard voice
of time

Heard from the tomb of ages, points
its cold
And solemn finger to the beautiful
And holy visions that have passed away,
And left no shadow of their loveliness
On the dead waste of life. The year
Has gone, and with it many a glorious
thing
Of happy dreams. Its mark is on
each brow,
Its shadow in each heart. In its swift
course
It waded its scepter o'er the beautiful;
And yet are not. It laid its pallid
hand
Upon the strong man, and the haughty
form
Is fallen, and the flashing eye is dim,
Pierce spirit of the glass and scythe—
what power
Can stay him in his silent course, or
melt
His iron heart to pity? On, still on
He presses, and forever. The proud
bird,
The condor of the Andes, that can soar
Through heaven's unfathomable depths,
or brave
The fury of the northern hurricane,
Time, the tomb-builder, holds his fierce
career.
Dark, stern, all pitiless, and pauses not
Amid the mighty wrecks that strew
his path
To sit and muse, like other conquerors,
Upon the fearful ruin he has wrought!
—GEORGE D. PRENTICE.

DAILY FASHION TALK TO READERS OF THE TIMES

THE design illustrated gives a youthful appearance to the figure, having a slightly raised waist line, and the body of the waist cut in one with the over-sleeve. In high or square neck, the waist has a fitted lining, which closes in the back, and full-length sleeve, perforated for three-quarter length. The three-piece skirt, slightly gathered at the waist, can be made with or without the hem facing or trimming.

For a handsome evening gown, taupe satin cashmere is suggested, with the deep hem facing of messaline to match, and the trimming bands on the skirt, the under-sleeves, and belt effect in the front, of black net embroidered in silk and jet beads.

Ladies' Home Journal pattern, No. 5719, cut in sizes 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, and 42 inches bust measure. This pattern is obtainable at S. Kann, Sons & Co.



Cost of This Gown in Three Materials

SATIN CASHMERE.	
5 yards 44-inch satin cashmere, \$3 yd.	\$15.00
3 yards 21-inch satin for hem facing, 75c yd.	2.25
1 1/2 yards 4-inch lace banding for waist trimming, 50c.	.75
1 1/2 yards 18-inch lace for bodice trimming, \$5.00 yd.	7.50
1 1/2 yards 6-inch lace banding for skirt, \$1.25 yd.	1.88
Ladies' Home Journal Pattern No. 5719.	15
	26.74
SATIN DUCHESSE.	
6 1/2 yards 36-inch satin duchesse, \$1 yd.	\$6.50
3 1/2 yards 21-inch velvet for hem facing, 75c yd.	2.63
1 1/2 yards 4-inch lace banding for waist trimming, 50c.	.75
1 1/2 yards 18-inch lace for bodice trimming, \$5.00 yd.	7.50
1 1/2 yards 6-inch lace banding for skirt, \$1.25 yd.	1.88
Ladies' Home Journal Pattern No. 5719.	15
	19.43
MESSALINE.	
10 1/2 yards 19-inch messaline, 50c yd.	\$5.15
3 1/2 yards 18-inch pan velvet for hem facing, 75c yd.	2.63
1 1/2 yards 4-inch lace banding for waist trimming, 50c.	.75
1 1/2 yards 18-inch lace for bodice trimming, \$5.00 yd.	7.50
1 1/2 yards 6-inch lace banding for skirt, \$1.25 yd.	1.88
Ladies' Home Journal Pattern No. 5719.	15
	18.70

How to Announce Baby's Arrival

It is usually the first baby who has the most fuss made over it in the way of announcement. Then telegrams go flying all over the country to those most deeply interested, to be followed as soon as possible with announcement cards to friends of lesser degree.

One form is to send the visiting card of the father and mother, and, attached to it by a narrow white satin ribbon, the tiny card bearing the baby's name. These are inclosed in an envelope the size of the larger card.

As the engraving takes some time, a prompter notification is found through the announcement cards that can now be bought in a variety of styles. Some of these are engraved, others stamped, but all contain lines to be filled in with name, weight, and date of baby's birth.

The simpler such cards are the better taste. Usually there is a stork as a monogram, and the cards are blue for a girl and pink for a boy.

SANDMAN STORES FOR JUST BEFORE BEDTIME

Lucinda's Christmas Present.

It don't seem right for a quality doll to live in a cullod folks' houses; but she'll be black if she stays here long 'nough, ev'rythin' in his ere house is black 'afer a while." Lucinda looked around. That was so. The pictures pinned on the wall were black and clean when Miss Lucy gave them to her. Now they were dingy with smoke. She went to a drawer and took out a handkerchief. Miss Lucy had given her on her birthday. "I'll jes' ever yo' pretty face wit' dis," she said, "and you shan't git black." Meanwhile, Sam went whistling down the road, holding his half dollar in his hand. He did not trust his pockets with it long at a time, for they were filled with holes. One of them, however, he had gathered up like a bag and tied it with a string, and it was in this pocket that he trusted the precious silver truce. "That's a gum sho," he said, picking up an old rubber. "I'll jes' cut off a bit to rub out pencil marks wit'." This he put into the pocket with the silver. The next morning, when Sam looked at his money, it had a dark mark on one side. "O I jes' knowed it would turn black if it was in dis house," said Sam with tears in his eyes. He breathed on it and rubbed it on his trousers, but the mark still remained. "If I al'nt a s'ile I reckon it would clear," said Sam. "I heard mammy say if you put a alg in coffee it would clear." "After breakfast Sam went up the road to see his mother. "What you al' doin' in here?" she asked. "It's so busy I ain't got a m'nt." "A man don't gon' up on de porch," said Sam, eyeing the basket of eggs on the table, "an' I jes' com' in to tell you al' be sure do look like a tramp." His mother grabbed the basket of eggs on the table, and Sam put one of the eggs in his pocket and sneaked out. When he reached home he put the silver half in pan and broke the egg over it. "That," said Sam, "I jes' let it stang a bit, an' I jes' let it clear." But when he washed the egg from the silver his bright half was as black as the stove. Sam gazed at it with horror, and then began to cry. Suddenly, he stopped.

Daily Horoscope

"The stars incline, but do not compel."
Thursday, December 22, 1910.

Now Saturn doth mislead
The mind inspired by greed.

ON this, the 35th day of the year, the sun enters the sign of Capricorn, and winter begins, to last eighty-nine days and one hour.

The day's increase commences. A powerful earthy sign rules the Moon. Saturn this day occupies a place of power, read by astrology as giving the planet unusual force for misleading those who are actuated by greed, avarice, tyrannical temper, passion, lust, and other ignoble emotions.

It will prove an evil day for those who endeavor to gain their ends by using deceit in any form.

A period begins now and lasts till the earth has passed far into the rule of the next Moon, during which it is suggested by astrologers that over-indulgence, procrastination, thoughtless haste, and harshness are the four evils that will most afflict mankind.

During that period, also, there is an ominous sign over speculators and all who aim to extract unearned gain.

This day Mercury ascends into a place held to signify great results from announcements, an augury read by astrology as denoting that a good and fortunate period begins for advertising, circulating, demonstrating, promoting and canvassing.

Merchants of all kinds should profit.

and salespeople are under an influence, that should give them abundant harvest during the coming week.

Successful—The day is read as being excellent for unusual undertakings, new enterprises and scientific industry.

Persons with this birth-date are under

the cusp of Sagittarius-Scorpio, a configuration that is held of to grant great results from thoughtfulness.

Children born today are under the same rule and are likely to be highly efficient in practical life.

To-Kalon Wines for Xmas

Special Case of Wine for Christmas

12 bottles of choice American wines and liquors—an ideal Xmas gift—at a very special price.

1 Bottle Champagne,
1 Bottle Whiskey,
1 Bottle Brandy,
1 Bottle Muscatel,
1 Bottle Port,
1 Bottle Burgundy,
1 Bottle Cocktail,
1 Bottle Sherry,
1 Bottle Tokay,
1 Bottle Sauterne,
1 Bottle Catawba,
1 Bottle Angelica.

12 Bottles for \$6.90

Specials in Christmas Wines

To-Kalon Wines the choicest American products for American tables.

Sherry—75c half gallon bottle.
Port—75c half gallon bottle.
Muscatel—75c half gallon bottle.
Angelica—75c half gallon bottle.
Catawba—50c half gallon.
Blackberry—75c half gallon.
Claret—50c half gallon.
Riesling—50c half gallon.
Hock—50c half gallon.

TO-KALON WINE CO., 1405 F St. Phone M. 995

SUCCESS SPELLED OUT FROM A TO Z IN GUIDE FOR MEN AND WOMEN

By ELIA WHEELER WILCOX.

SOME ONE has arranged an alphabet for women. It lays down the rules for true womanhood, in the following manner:

I will be:
Amiable always.
Beautiful as possible.
Dutiful to myself.
Earnest in the right things.
Friendly in disposition.
Generous to all in need.
Hopeful in spite of everything.
Intelligent but not pedantic.
Joyful as a child.
Kind even in thought.
Long suffering with the stupid.
Merry for the sake of others.
Necessary to a few.
Optimistic, though the skies fall.
Prudent in my pleasures.
Quixotic, rather than hard.
Ready to over-act.
Self-respecting in the right limit.
True to my last.
Unselfish about martyrdom.
Valiant for the absent.
Willing to believe the best.
X-ray vision in my convictions.
Young and fresh in heart.
Zealous to make the best of life.

The woman who lives up to all precepts of this alphabet would need a very exemplary man for a mate.

So here is an alphabet for men to learn, that they may be fitting themselves to be suitable companions for the woman who has learned her alphabet:

A man's alphabet—
I will be:
Ambitious to live up to the best in me.
Brave in adversity.
Consistent in theory and practice.
Determined and daring in doing right.
Eager to correct my faults.
Faithful to my convictions.
Good to every one, foe or friend.
Happy to do my share of the world's work.
Intense in my efforts at self-development.
Just in my dealings with others.
Kind to all creatures, things, and kind accordingly.
Loving and lovable to those near me.
Mighty in faith.
Notable for my optimism.
Open-hearted.
Patient.
Quiet in the midst of confusion and turmoil.
Righteous as I can be.
Strong in my principles.
Trusting God like a little child.
Unswerving in my conviction of improvement.
Versatile in my methods of being enterprising.
Watchful of my own actions.
X-aspirating never.
Yielding in small things.
Zealous in great things.

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THE TIMES INQUIRY COLUMN

Wedding Etiquette.

May B.—If the parents of children are alive it is their duty to announce the marriage of their daughter, even though they may be in a distant land. If a couple announce their own wedding it shows to the world that the bride is an orphan, with no near relatives.

Perfumed Bath Bags.

C. L. G.—These little bath bags are very dainty toilet luxuries and would make very acceptable gifts. Make little cheesecloth bags four or five inches square and fill with this mixture:
Primrose sachet powder.....1 ounce
Almond meal.....5 ounces
Powderedorris root.....5 ounces
Powdered white castile soap.....5 ounces
Fine oatmeal.....12 ounces
New Bran.....1 pint

Fruit Cake.

Mrs. J. M.—One pound of butter, creamed; add one pound of light brown sugar, one dozen of eggs beaten light, two pounds of seedless raisins (small), white ones, one pound of currants, three-quarters of a pound of citron cut up, one-quarter of a pound of almonds chopped, one pound of flour, four tablespoonfuls of brandy, one tablespoonful each cinnamon and cloves, one grated nutmeg, juice and rind of one large lemon, and two heaping teaspoons baking powder. Bake two hours in slow oven in two large round tins.

Maryland Oyster Soup.

Housekeeper—Wash and drain three quarts of fresh oysters; put them in a kettle with four quarts of water, four chopped onions, several slices of lean ham, some salt, celery seed and red pepper, with a few pieces of mace. Boil till reduced one-half, strain through a cloth, put the liquid back in the pot, add one quart of raw oysters; boil till done, then thicken the soup with three spoonfuls of flour, half a pint of thick cream and the well-beaten yolks of four eggs.

All Right.

B.—All right is spelled as two separate words.

Giving Office Gifts.

Worried—Be firm enough to tell one soliciting money for the gift that you do not favor the idea of giving gifts by subscription or that owing to some unusual demands upon your purse this year you are unable to contribute. It is rank injustice to expect poorly paid employees, as you are, to contribute to some gift for a manager who is amply able to provide himself with whatever he needs. The right kind of heads of departments refuse to accept such gifts.

"Here's just the thing"

McCallum Silk Hosiery

"Why didn't I think of it before?"

The unusual gift is the difficult gift to select. To have it also appropriate often costs more than one cares to pay.

McCallum Silk Stockings are unusual because of their high quality and great variety of styles—all of which sell at moderate prices. They make a gift of unquestionable appropriateness.

To Women We Recommend

No. 201—a very thin, fine, brilliant silk stocking, especially suited for evening wear. In black only with black self-cloth. No. 113 and No. 122 are both fine gauge medium weight, of unusually good wearing qualities. In black only. No. 153 in white and all colors.

McCallum Silk Hosiery for Men

No. 308 in black and No. 327, its companion, in all colors. These are fine pure silk half hose, suitable for daily wear. No. 329, a ribbed two-tone in staple combinations of color.

Any good dealer in this city will gladly show you McCallum Silk Hosiery, or will get it for you on request. If you have difficulty in getting it, the names of local dealers may be had by writing to

McCALLUM HOSIERY COMPANY - Northampton, Mass.
Largest Producers of Silk Hosiery in the World